

Carter's contributions to agriculture and his community have helped agriculture in the county achieve this status. After receiving his Bachelor of Science in Animal Husbandry from California Polytechnic University in 1952, Larry served in the United States Navy for 4 years. Between 1963 and 1972, he ran his own laying hen ranch. For the following 15 years, he served as Executive Manager of the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau while farming 25 acres of almonds. Since 1987, Mr. Carter has worked for Stanislaus Farm Supply.

Larry's dedication to the community and agriculture organizations has been evident through his work as a volunteer. He has worked with the Denair Lions Club, Hughson 4-H, Modesto Chamber of Commerce, Stanislaus County Jail Site Committee, Stanislaus Ag Foundation, and many others.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Larry Carter for his induction into the 2003 Stanislaus County Ag Center Foundation Ag Hall of Fame. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Larry for his dedication and hard work.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MARATHON JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER AND ITS RABBI GARY GREENE

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Marathon Jewish Community Center in Douglaston, New York and its new Rabbi Gary Greene who officially took the reins on December 7, 2003.

The Marathon Jewish Community Center is a conservative synagogue which has served the communities of Douglaston, Little Neck, Bayside and Great Neck for more than 50 years. The facility includes a religious school, a junior congregation and adult education programs.

Earlier this year, the synagogue recruited Rabbi Gary Greene from Temple Shalom in Framingham, Massachusetts. Prior to his service there, Rabbi Greene served the members of Congregation B'Nai Jacob in Longmeadow, Massachusetts. While at Temple Shalom, Rabbi Greene helped to revitalize Adult Education, and for his efforts was the recipient of the Solomon Schechter Award for Adult Education. Among other accomplishments, Rabbi Greene has expanded the social and cultural programs of the Temple and introduced services and rituals, including Selichot, Tashlich, Healing Services and Meditation Services.

Rabbi Greene has also dedicated himself to teaching. Over the years, he has educated and enlightened thousands of children and adults. He taught most grades at the former United Hebrew School and served on its Board of Directors, Education Committee and Rabbis' Committee. He was instrumental in the creation of B'Nai Jacob's Hebrew School and the B'yachad Hebrew High School. Rabbi Green has served on its Board of Directors, Education Committee and as the Co-Chair of the Education Committee in charge of Judaic programming. Rabbi Greene also served as a teacher and adviser to Camp Ramah in Palmers, Massachusetts.

Rabbi Green also served as the Jewish chaplain for students at Westfield State College in Westfield and Bay Path College in Longmeadow. He was also an active member of the Longmeadow Clergy Association as well as the Interfaith Council of Western Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in congratulating Rabbi Gary Greene and the Marathon Jewish Center for their service to the community. I am confident that the Marathon Jewish Center will continue to enrich the lives of its congregants for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MS. MARGARET ANN ABDALLA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding citizen of California's 29th Congressional District, Margaret Ann Abdalla. Ms. Abdalla has served on the South Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education for 16 years and has been a positive force in the greater South Pasadena area for much longer.

A Southern California native and University of Southern California graduate, Margaret Ann moved to South Pasadena in 1969. She began her community service by volunteering with the South Pasadena Parent Teacher Association, Little League, and South Pasadena Educational Foundation. Ms. Abdalla also raised three children, Lisa, Tony and Alex, all who attended South Pasadena's public schools.

In 1987, Margaret Ann was elected to the South Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education. Ms. Abdalla has worked with several board members and four superintendents during her tenure, serving as Board President three times. Under her leadership, some of the Board's accomplishments include the passage of two school bond measures in 1995 and 2002, the formation and bonding of today's administrative team, and the transition of the junior high to a middle school program 12 years ago. In 1996, Margaret Ann was the recipient of the South Pasadena Parent Teacher Association's Honorary Service Award for meritorious service.

As a member of the South Pasadena School Board, Margaret Ann participated in organizations such as the California School Boards Association, the Downtown Revitalization Task Force and the Los Angeles Annenberg Metropolitan Project. In addition, Ms. Abdalla was a founding member of the Five-Star Coalition, a coalition of the Burbank, Glendale, La Canada Flintridge, Pasadena and South Pasadena School Districts, established for the purpose of collaborating with local legislators on issues of mutual interest to the school districts.

The time, energy and love Margaret Ann has given to the community are extraordinary, and the residents of South Pasadena have benefited greatly. At this time, I ask all Members to join with me in commending Margaret Ann Abdalla for her many years of dedicated service to the South Pasadena community.

ON THE PASSING OF WAYNE T. PALMER

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the 4th Congressional District's finest citizens. On Saturday, November 29, 2003, Wayne T. Palmer, of Sparta, Tennessee, passed away at his home.

Wayne Palmer was not a master of business or of politics. Mr. Palmer was a man of meager means but overwhelmingly generous spirit. He was a man who cut a giant figure in his community through the devotion of his time and energy to the causes he loved.

Wayne Palmer served as a volunteer leader in the Boy Scouts of America for more than 35 years. During that long tenure, he served variously as Assistant Scoutmaster and Scoutmaster of Troop 175 in Sparta, as the camping chairman of both the Upper Cumberland and Black Fox Districts, and as a leader of the camping committee of the Middle Tennessee Council. Significantly, these are just a few of the roles he fulfilled during his many years of service to Scouting.

Mr. Palmer was honored for his guidance to young men and leadership in scouting repeatedly. He was awarded the Long Rifle Award for his leadership in both the districts he served. Mr. Palmer was honored with the Silver Beaver Award—the highest honor accorded adult leaders by the Middle Tennessee Council—for his service to the council. In addition, he was a Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow—Scouting's Honor Society—and was repeatedly honored for his service to the Wa-HiNasa Lodge, including receipt of the Founders' Award and Josh Sain Memorial Award.

Mr. Speaker, if we're lucky, we encounter few people in life who have the kind of positive influence over the lives and maturation of young men that Wayne Palmer had. He was a man utterly devoid of self-interest and focused almost entirely on the education and improvement of the lives of those boys and young men who had the tremendous good fortune to be guided by his wisdom—be they Boy Scouts (his first and lifelong love), Little League baseball players or otherwise. It is rare—very rare indeed—to find a person who acts altruistically, who places the interests of others consistently ahead of his own, and who is truly selfless. Wayne Palmer was just such a person, and the lives of many Tennesseans are far richer for having known him.

Wayne Palmer was a great teacher and a great man. The lessons he taught were lessons for life. Of that, I have no doubt. Wayne Palmer taught as much or more by example, as he did through more common instruction. Mr. Palmer walked the talk. He never asked anyone to do anything he was not himself willing to do. He was, in the eyes of so many, the very embodiment of that pole star of principles, the Scout Oath and Law. Mr. Speaker, Wayne Palmer was for many Tennesseans the Great Scoutmaster of legend and myth.

White County and the Fourth Congressional District of Tennessee lost one of those rare bright lights on November 29 when Wayne T. Palmer passed from this mortal coil. Accordingly, I rise today to express my deepest sympathy to his wife, Jan, and his son, Garrett, on

their tremendous loss. We honor his memory here today so that they will know that we all share their loss. Wayne T. Palmer was a great Tennessean, a man devoted to his family and to the education of young people, and an exemplary American citizen.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege as a Member of the People's House to honor his lifetime of service to others.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE SWIFT FAMILY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable family from my District. Dean and Pattie Swift of Jaroso, Colorado have done a great deal for the preservation of the environment. Recently, the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts named the Swifts as Conservation Farmers of the Year for the work they have done as owners of the Swift Seed Company. I am honored to call the attention of this body of Congress to the contributions the Swifts have made to preserving the environment.

The Swifts began farming in the San Luis Valley in 1975. Their company sells flower seeds worldwide. The seeds the Swifts sell are used primarily for the reclamation of mining sites and the re-seeding of areas devastated by wildfire.

Dean Swift serves as the Chairman of the Rio Grande Corridor Advisory Committee. This committee is comprised of farmers and ranchers throughout Costilla County who are dedicated to the preservation of the Rio Grande on the Western border of Costilla County. In addition, Dean works in conjunction with Ducks Unlimited to promote wetland habitat on the Swift Farm.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to Dean and Pattie Swift. The Swifts have done a great deal for the environment, not only on their family farm but also throughout our state. They have managed these feats while happily serving as wonderful parents to their two beautiful children. Congratulations Dean and Pattie on a well-deserved award.

RECOGNIZING KAZAKHSTAN'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to the efforts of Kazakhstan, a predominantly Muslim secular nation that spares no effort to promote better understanding and dialogue between the Western world and the Islamic world. Some people may wonder why Kazakhstan would engage in such efforts and why it is succeeding in their efforts. I suggest they read a recent article by the Ambassador of Kazakhstan, Kanat Saudabayev, published by the Institute on Religion and Public Policy so they may learn of Kazakhstan's experience in achieving these goals. I therefore ask unan-

imous consent of my colleagues to introduce the article into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From *www.religionandpolicy.org*, Nov. 26, 2003]

WE CALL FOR DIALOGUE, NOT HATE

(By Ambassador Kanat Saudabayev)

Extremists often use religion to create hate and further their selfish agendas which have nothing to do with religion. But, all religions are similar in that they denounce terrorism and teach tolerance, harmony and brotherhood.

That was the message delivered to the world by participants of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, who gathered in Astana at the initiative of Nursultan Nazarbayev, the president of a secular Muslim-majority Kazakhstan. At the end of the Congress, senior clerics from Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism, Taoism and other faiths adopted a declaration stating, "extremism, terrorism and other forms of violence in the name of religion have nothing to do with genuine understanding of religion, but are a threat to human life and hence should be rejected."

"Inter-religious dialogue is one of the key means for social development and the promotion of the well-being of all peoples, fostering tolerance, mutual understanding and harmony among different cultures and religions," the religious leaders said after the closing joint prayer.

Far from the "clash of civilizations" many see as part of the world's future, this Congress was a strong response to all who spread intolerance, hate and terrorism. The Congress also showed the world the noble goals of inter-religious peace are very real and very achievable. There's convincing evidence of this in Kazakhstan, where Muslims, Christians, Jews, Buddhists and others live in peace with each other and where freedom of religion is the crucial value of our society. Pope John Paul II called Kazakhstan "an example of harmony between men and women of different origins and beliefs."

Indeed, at the whim of often cruel fate in the past, Kazakhstan, however paradoxically that may sound, has truly become a center of unique diversity and tolerance.

During much of the 20th century, Kazakhstan was under the totalitarian domination of Soviet communism. The Soviets conducted cruel experiments with our land and our people. The forced settlement of the traditionally nomadic Kazakh people was followed by a widespread famine in the 1930s. Coupled with almost 500 nuclear tests during 40 years, this led to deprivation, death and emigration of millions of ethnic Kazakhs. In the 1940s, Stalin dumped hundreds of thousands of Germans, Chechens, Koreans and others in Kazakhstan as his regime deemed them untrustworthy in the face of the invading Nazis in the West and the Japanese in the East. Thousands of ethnic Russians and others were sent to Soviet concentration camps, part of the Gulag, in Kazakhstan. Many Soviet Jews were exiled to Kazakhstan for their religious beliefs. In the 1950s, more than a million ethnic Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians came to Kazakhstan to farm under the Virgin Lands program.

In those difficult years, the native Kazakhs gave all these people shelter and shared bread. Official Communist ideology, however, did not encourage people in their natural yearning for a religious life. Religious life was instead suppressed; ancient mosques, churches, and synagogues were used as shops, storage areas or even discos, rather than houses of worship.

Religious reawakening and freedom of conscience returned to Kazakhstan only after our independence. During the short 12 years,

ancient mosques, churches and synagogues were restored and hundreds of new ones built across the country. In 2002, Rep. Robert Wexler (D-FL) put a cornerstone into the new synagogue currently under construction in Astana. Today, there are some 3,000 religious congregations representing more than 40 religious denominations serving the needs of 100 different ethnic groups. Recently, President Nazarbayev announced plans to build a single center in Astana which will have houses of worship of many religions.

This history of mutual respect and harmony is the background which led President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan to convene the recent Astana Congress. The eager response of world's religious leaders to the call for the Congress is a reflection of the respect they carry for the President and his policies.

This is also the reason why many leaders from the United States and other countries have supported our endeavors to build bridges between religions and civilizations.

President George W. Bush, in his letter to President Nazarbayev, said, "For the United States, itself a multi-ethnic and religiously diverse nation, these meetings underscore the importance of working with our friends in Central Asia to advance the values of tolerance and respect that form the foundation of democracy."

A bipartisan group of U.S. Senators and Congressmen in a letter to President Nazarbayev called the Astana forum "Kazakhstan's worthy contribution to the promotion of peace and harmony during these difficult times." Senators Sam Brownback (R-KS) and Conrad Burns (R-MT), representatives George Radanovich (R-CA), Joe Pitts (R-PA), Robert Wexler (D-FL), Eni Faleomavaega (D-American Samoa), Edolphus Towns (D-NY) and others also thanked Kazakhstan "for taking consistent and concrete steps to bridge the growing divide between Muslims and Jews at a time when tension in the Middle East is at a fulcrum, and intolerance and anti-Semitism are rising worldwide."

The recent report to Congress by the Advisory Group on Public Diplomacy for the Arab and Muslim worlds, led by Edward Djerejian, points out the need for dialogue between the Muslim and Western worlds is more important today than ever before.

Such a conclusion is obvious. Similarly obvious are difficulties in putting it into practice.

But the example of Kazakhstan, working well with the United States, the West, and the Muslim world and speaking for dialogue of religions and civilizations, gives us ground for optimism that tolerance and mutual understanding, not hate and violence, will prevail.

A BILL TO EXPAND THE WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to add Trade Adjustment Assistance Recipients as a targeted group for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, thereby permitting employers to receive a tax credit when hiring these individuals. Most importantly, this bill would help address the loss of our manufacturing and other jobs to foreign competitors. The bill I'm introducing is a companion to a bill offered in the Senate by my good friend, Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE of Maine.